

REMARKS

Claims 3 and 23 to 27 have been cancelled without prejudice. Claims 1, 4, and 8 have been amended (currently). And claims 2, 5-7, and 9-22 remain as originally filed. Claims 1, 4, and 15 are now independent claims and a total of 20 claims are currently pending.

The Patent Office objected to claims 3-5 and 8 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but indicated that these claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Responsive thereto, and to facilitate timely allowance, Applicants have added to claim 1 all of the limitations previously found in claim 3 (which had previously depended directly upon claim 1) and cancelled claim 3. Consequently, the current claim 1 has all of the limitations of the previous claim 3 (including the limitations of claim 1 upon which claim 3 previously depended), and as a result is allowable. Applicants also added to claim 4 all of the limitations previously found in claim 1. Thus, claim 4 is also now allowable. Claims 2 and 5-14 are also now allowable because they are dependent upon a base claim that is allowable, and consequently, contain all of the limitations of an allowable claim. Claim 8 was amended to delete the limitation that had been added to claim 1, since claim 8 is (indirectly) dependent upon claim 1. Thus, claim 8 was amended to avoid duplication of this limitation. The current claim 8 now actually contains the same limitations as the previous claim 8.

The Patent Office indicated that claims 15-22 were allowed. These claims have not been amended. Further, at least claims 1, 4, 5, 8, 9, and 15-22 contain the same limitations as originally filed claims, and thus are substantially similar to and unchanged from claims that were originally filed. (Claim 1 is the same as originally filed claim 3.) The other claims differ from originally filed claims only in that they now contain the limitation previously found in claim 3, which those claims previously did not include. Clearly, no new matter has been introduced by reason of these amendments.

Claims 23 to 27 had previously been withdrawn. Claims 23 to 27 have now been cancelled, but Applicants reserve the right to re-file these claims in a divisional or continuation application.

Applicants submit that no rejected claims remain in the application. Thus, Applicants submit that all grounds for rejection have been overcome. Reconsideration and allowance of all pending claims is requested. If further amendments are required to facilitate allowance of a patent, or to put the claims in better form for allowance, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned. Even further, if the Examiner wishes to amend the title to eliminate the words "and Method of Manufacturing Same", such an amendment would be acceptable to the Applicants.

Respectfully submitted,

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